

ABSTRACT

A method of providing data for transmission on a time division multiplexed (TDM) serial data stream. The method comprises mapping channels of the TDM stream to contexts, each context comprising a set of memory buffers for storing data to be transmitted. Data is extracted from the contexts in a sequence defined by said mapping and transmitting the extracted data on the TDM stream. When a buffer or buffers of a context become empty, a buffer refill request is generated to cause data to be read from a memory to refill the buffer, wherein each buffer refill request is assigned a priority. The context buffers are refilled in an order defined by the respective priorities of the refill requests.